

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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54

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-14

AID-20 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 DRC-01

/193 W

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R 191115Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5381

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CALL ON SENIOR ASU OFFICIAL

1. USINTOFF PAID COURTESY CALL FEB 17 ON ISAM ABD AL-RAHMAN, CHEF DE CABINET OF HAFIZ AL-GHANIM, HEAD OF THE ARAB SOCIALIST UNION, EGYPT'S SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY. ABD AL-RAHMAN SAID HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT ALTHOUGH ASU HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL "SOCIALISTS" (I.E., COMMUNIST) COUNTRIES EXCEPT CHINA AND ALBANIA, HIS ORGANIZATION BELIEVES PUSH SHOULD BE MADE TO ESTABLISH MORE REGULAR CONTACTS WITH WESTERN BLOC TO CORRECT IMBALANCE. ASU, THEREFORE, WELCOMED RECENT VISITS TO EGYPT OF MITTERAND, CALLAGHAN, AND CODEL STRATTON, AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT NEXT MONTH OF DR. KREISKY AND "HEAD OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL" LIBERMAN. LATTER IS COMING WITH STUDY GROUP WHICH WILL CONSULT WITH ASU ON ECONOMIC SUBJECTS ONLY. BY PREARRANGEMENT, CONFIDENTIAL
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HE STRESSED, POLITICS, AND ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES IN PARTICULAR, WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED.

2. ABD AL-RAHMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD USG-GOE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ABOUT TO BE REESTABLISHED, AND IN THIS CONTEXT HE HOPED FOR INCREASED VISITS FROM US POLITICIANS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS AND "SYNDICALISTS." WHEN USINTOFF MENTIONED WE HAVE LABOR ATTACHE IN BEIRUT, ABD AL-RAHMAN REPLIED HE WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE HIM CAIRO.

3. USINTOFF THEN FAVORED WITH STANDARD LECTURE ON NECESSITY FOR USG TO UNDERSTAND THAT OCTOBER WAR HAS CREATED REAL CHANCE FOR JUST, DURABLE PEACE, WHICH MUCH DESIRED BY EGYPTIAN PEOPLE. FAILURE OF ROGERS INITIATIVE STILL RANKLES, BUT ONCE AGAIN THERE IS HOPE FOR PEACE BASED ON TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS AND RECOGNITION RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS. PERORATION, DELIVERED WITH SOME PASSION, DEALT WITH RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL WHICH EXISTS IN EGYPT FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE. EGYPTIANS WANT TO DEVELOP THEIR COUNTRY, ARE EAGER TO LEARN FROM AMERICAN, AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAN BE DIVERTED AWAY FROM DEFENSE.

4. COMMENT: SINCE 1967 DIRECT USINT CONTACTS WITH ASU HAVE BEEN FEW, IN VIEW OF INORDINATE GOE SUSPICION OF FOREIGN INTEREST IN DOMESTIC LABOR AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS. NEWOLY ARRIVED USINT POLITICAL OFFICER HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR COURTESY CALL ON OFFICIAL IN ASU INFORMATION SECTION, BUT WAS INVITED INSTEAD TO CALL ON ABD AL-RAHMAN, SENIOR AIDE TO HAFIZ AL-GHANIM. WARMTH OF RECEPTION AND PRESSING INVITATION TO CALL AGAIN SOON SUGGEST ASU OFFICIALS HAVE GOTTEN THE GOE MESSAGE THAT CLOSER RELATIONS WITH USG ARE TO BE FOSTERED.
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